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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 002659

SIPDIS

FROM THE US MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

USAID FOR DCHA/AA WINTER AND DCHA/FFP LANDIS, CRUMBLY AND LAURENT  
STATE IO FOR DAS MILLER, IO/EDA BEHREND AND KOTOK, AND IO/S PODOLSKY AND LUCHI  
USDA FAS FOR U/S PENN, CHAMBLISS AND TILSWORTH  
STATE PRM FOR A/S DEWEY, KNUDSON AND BROTHERS-JACKSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ADRC](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REPORTS ON USAID-FUNDED JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS (JPOS)

REF: ROME 001469

SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING HER MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC, WITH USAID FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER CARELL LAURENT, WFP HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER ANNA COPE REPORTED TO US PROGRESS IN WFP'S EFFORTS TO SECURE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USAID TO FUND ADDITIONAL WFP JPOS. THE MEETING, WHICH OCCURRED ON JULY 1, 2004, WAS A CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WFP AND USAID REGARDING WAYS IN WHICH USAID COULD ASSIST IN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS BROUGHT INTO THE UN SYSTEM AS PERMANENT EMPLOYEES VIA WFP'S JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER (JPO) PROGRAM. IT WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS (MOST RECENTLY DURING THE WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MAY 24-28) BETWEEN WFP AND USAID. MS. COPE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE MEETING AND REPORTED THAT SHE AND MS. LAURENT AGREED UPON CONCRETE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS. AS ENUNCIATED, INCREASING AMERICAN CITIZEN EMPLOYMENT IN THE UN SYSTEM REMAINS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY OF BOTH THE USG AND THE U.S. CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. THERE HAS BEEN STRONG GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF JPOS WITHIN WFP, AS FOLLOWS: 1996, 51 JPOS; 1997, 72 JPOS; 1998, 71 JPOS; 1999, 94 JPOS; 2000, 99 JPOS; 2001, 103 JPOS. IN TERMS OF U.S. SUPPORT, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING SUPPORT, THANKS IN MEASURE TO INPUT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER (CHC) AND THEIR MICKEY LELAND HUNGER FELLOWS PROGRAM, AS WELL AS LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE/PRM AND USDA/FAS. OVER THE PERIOD 1998-2004, U.S.-SPONSORED NUMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1998, 1 JPO; 1999, 2 JPOS; 2000, 2 JPOS, 2001, 5 JPOS; 2002, 6 JPOS; 2003, 7 JPOS; 2004, 3 JPOS (TO DATE). NOTE: IN 2003, OF THE 7 U.S.-FUNDED JPOS, 3 WERE SPONSORED BY STATE/PRM, 3 FROM CHC AND ONE FROM USDA/FAS.

WFP JPOS STILL WIN-WIN

3. PER REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE WFP'S JPO PROGRAM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH WFP AND THE USG. THE JPO PROGRAM ALLOWS THE USG TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS REPRESENTED IN THE UN SYSTEM, WHILE WFP BENEFITS FROM AN INFUSION OF NEW IDEAS, ENERGY, APPROACHES AND EXCELLENT HUMAN RESOURCES.

4. WFP REPORTS THAT DURING THE MEETING, THE ORGANIZATION CONFIRMED THAT IT HAS THE HIGHEST RETENTION RATE OF JPOS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM (67 PERCENT) AND POINTED OUT THAT USG-FUNDED JPOS HAD A RETENTION RATE OF 100 PERCENT LAST YEAR.

THE ROAD AHEAD

5. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO WFP, THE FOLLOWING CONCRETE STEPS WERE AGREED TO DURING THE MEETING:

- AS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEE AND MIGRATION (STATE/PRM) ALREADY FUNDS WFP JPOS, USAID/DCHA/FFP WILL CONTACT THE BUREAU'S MS. STACI BROTHERS-JACKSON TO REVIEW STATE/PRM'S FILE OF APPLICANTS FOR THE PROGRAM.

- USING THIS FILE, USAID/DCHA/FFP WILL IDENTIFY A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS: MASTERS DEGREE, TWO UN LANGUAGES (ENGLISH AND ONE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE AT INTERMEDIATE LEVEL), PLUS SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN

NUTRITION/PUBLIC HEALTH/FOOD/DEVELOPMENT/GEOGRAPHY.

- USAID/DCHA/FFP WILL PROVIDE WFP WITH A LIST OF THE AGENCY'S PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND ISSUE AREAS. WFP WILL USE THIS INFORMATION IN DEVELOPING TARGETED JOB DESCRIPTIONS. WFP UNDERSTOOD THAT VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS MAPPING AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS WERE TWO OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PRIORITY ISSUES FOR USAID/DCHA/FFP.

- WFP WILL PROVIDE COST ESTIMATES BASED ON ACTUAL COSTS FOR  
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POSITIONS INTO THE  
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

- WFP WILL ACCEPT FROM USAID/DCHA/FFP EARLY PAYMENT FOR THE USAID-FUNDED JPO POSITIONS. THIS SHOULD ALLOW USAID/DCHA/FFP TO MEET THE DEADLINES OF ITS QSCAL BUDGET.

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COMMENT FROM THE AMBASSADOR  
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16. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS IN SECURING ADDITIONAL  
USG-FUNDED JPOS FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM FROM USAID. AS  
I HAVE STATED BEFORE, INCREASING AMERICAN CITIZEN  
EMPLOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE UN SYSTEM IS A PRIORITY  
NOT ONLY FOR THE IO BUREAU AND THIS MISSION, BUT ALSO FOR  
THE USG AND THE U.S. CONGRESS. THIS IS A STEP FORWARD IN  
MAKING THAT GOAL A REALITY. INVOLVING THE CONGRESSIONAL  
HUNGER CENTER HAS PAID STRONG DIVIDENDS. I WOULD STRONGLY  
ENCOURAGE THAT THE CONCERNED AGENCIES DECIDE ON A MINIMUM  
LEVEL OF JPO SUPPORT FOR WFP AND BUDGET ACCORDINGLY. WFP  
HAS BECOME THE PREMIER UN AGENCY IN HUMANITARIAN DISASTER  
RESPONSE, A SUBJECT OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED  
STATES. IN MY VIEW, THE USG SHOULD BE AT LEAST MATCHING  
DENMARK, JAPAN AND CANADA, WHICH FUNDED 15, 13 AND 12 WFP  
JPOS RESPECTIVELY IN 2003.  
HALL

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